

Contact:

David Schutz, State Curator, david.schutz@vermont.gov
Vermont Supreme Court Gallery
111 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05602
802-828-5657

Artist Web Site: [Jonathan VanTassel](#)

September 17, 2015

The exhibit runs from: October 8, to December 31

Opening Reception: October 8, from 5:00 – 7:00

Art Walk Reception: Dec 4, from 4:00 – 7:00

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Vermont Supreme Court Gallery hosts
“wēmosphere,” a new painting show from Jonathan VanTassel**

MONTPELIER, VT - The Vermont Supreme Court Gallery presents new oil paintings from [Jonathan VanTassel](#). VanTassel refers to his work as Abstract-Realism. His most recent project addressed elegance and his distrust of it. “Individual and collective ideas of beauty change continuously and often have to be challenged in order to be found. Yet even the loudest dissidents - think Frank Zappa or Louis C.K.- aim to create some sort of universal beauty in the periphery of their narratives.”

“wēmosphere,” VanTassel says, “refers to a kind of unattainable painting composition that I like to imagine. An atmosphere that is the thing that is (found) in the atmosphere.” In VanTassel’s work it sometimes appears that both the thing and atmosphere are responsible for the creation of the other. Quandaries like the *creator versus created* are reflected in this type of composition. “Or are they *refracted*?”

Jonathan VanTassel is certainly one of the most creative forces to hit the Vermont Supreme Court Gallery, “ says State Curator David Schutz. “His large abstract canvases are right at home on the impressive walls of this granite courthouse tucked between the State House and Pavilion Building—holding forth with supreme color and vibrantly explosive effects. Jonathan is without any question one of the most fervent young artists working in Vermont today.

VanTassel received his BFA at Colorado University. He received his MFA from Indiana University. “In Indiana I was lucky to have found myself in front of such a diverse array of painting experts. Today, loud opinions and a focus on craft in the context of an unfocused and often conceptually based Contemporary Art world are not often found in numbers. The experience sort of became an

anthropological study of taste (and myself) in the presence of many intelligent and talented lookers.”

A native of Chicago, VanTassel taught Color and Design at Indiana University and has shown in Colorado, Chicago, Indiana, and Vermont.

The artist can be contacted at jonathanvantassel@gmail.com.